

## **2017 Acton Community Garden Rules**

Plots are available for use Saturday, April 8, 2017 through Sunday, November 5, 2017.

As a gardener, you must:

- Abide by Acton Water District Watering Restrictions: SEE COMMUNITY GARDEN WATERING RULES ATTACHED.
- Use only biodegradable mulches (no black plastic) and only non-toxic row covers (no tar paper).
- Share with all gardeners any compost provided.
- Deposit all garden debris in the areas provided. There is no trash service provided—this is a carry-in / carry-out facility.
- Keep all pathways clear for mowers. Do not put rocks, weed clumps, corn stalks, tools, chairs, or structures on mowed pathways.
- Remove man-made materials: cages, stakes, fences, etc., by November 5, 2017. Do not remove wooden or metal plot boundary stakes.
- All materials and tools must be stored offsite during the off-season. If items are left behind they will be disposed of and your garden plot renewal may be denied.

You may not:

- Use herbicides.
- Extend your garden beyond your assigned plot boundaries. Any planting done in this manner will be removed.
- Borrow privately-owned tools or hoses from other plots without the owner's permission.

Perennial plants are not advised; there is no assurance of having the same plot annually. Dogs are not permitted at the Community Garden.

**NORTH ACTON:**

- Use only fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides approved by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources ([www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/)) and the U.S. EPA.
- Take care to keep sprays from drifting out of your plot.

**MORRISON FARM:**

- Use only fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides listed by OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute – [www.omni.org](http://www.omni.org)) or WSDA (Washington State Department of Agriculture – [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov)), or organic home-made remedies

All garden rules are found on the Town of Acton website located on the Recreation Department's webpage under "General Information."

## COMMUNITY GARDEN WATERING RULES

Dear Community Garden Members,

As you may know, Acton as well as many other towns in the Commonwealth is experiencing drought conditions. The state has recently raised the drought condition in our area to “drought warning,” the third highest level of the four levels. This level designation requires additional actions to be taken by the Acton Water District to conserve water. One of these measures is to require that the *Community* Gardens in Acton substantially reduce their use of water. This can be done in a number of ways – some of them more intrusive and difficult than others. We would like to try one of the less difficult methods to see if compliance by the members of the *community* will significantly reduce our water usage.

The rules are simple, but to be effective they must be adhered to by each and every gardener:

1. Hand watering by hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle is permitted. This is a nozzle that stops the water flow when your hand is removed. All watering hoses must have such a nozzle. No hose may be left “open” and allowed to run on the ground.
2. Hand-held watering cans may also be used.
3. No hose attached irrigation devices of any kind may be used – sprinklers, soaker hoses, etc.
4. Water the base of the plants only – the root systems, not the leaves. This minimizes the amount of water utilized.
5. Do not flood any of the plots. This wastes a great deal of water which the plants don’t use and encourages the growth of unwanted vegetation.
6. Do not allow young children to operate or touch the valve systems, or to water your garden.
7. If you are the last gardener using the water in your area, it is your responsibility to turn off the watering system all the way back to the feeder valves. If you don’t understand the watering system, ask one of the other gardeners who may be familiar. If you find a leaking valve, it is your responsibility as part of the community to contact the Recreation Department: 978-929-6640 x0.
8. You may only water on your garden’s watering days before 9:00 AM and after 5:00 PM. This will minimize water loss through evaporation.
9. Watering days are:
  - a. North Acton Community Gardens: Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
  - b. Morrison Farm: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
  - c. Hebert Farm Community Garden: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

There is no assurance that water will be available throughout the summer.